DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 462 163 PS 030 095

TITLE	Parent Organizations and Schools: Team Up for Kids!
INSTITUTION	Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2000-00-00
NOTE	7p.
AVAILABLE FROM	ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Tel: 877-433-7827 (Toll Free); Tel: 800-872-5327 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.ed.gov/PFIE.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Elementary Secondary Education; *Family School Relationship; Parent Associations; Parent Participation; Parent School Relationship; *Parents; *Partnerships in Education; *Schools
IDENTIFIERS	Family Support

ABSTRACT

This pamphlet notes how active family involvement in education can benefit children's achievement, attitudes, schools, and teachers. It describes how families and schools can work together to contribute to the education process. The pamphlet details the components of a family-school partnership promise to work together, exchange information, share decision-making, and collaborate for children's learning. The pamphlet also includes a form for joining the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education and delineates materials available from the U.S. Department of Education providing guidelines for getting families involved in education. Finally, the pamphlet describes ways parent organizations and schools can support family involvement in education by: (1) opening the lines of communication and making families feel welcome as equal partners; (2) giving teachers the tools to reach out to families; (3) setting high expectations for children by helping them enroll in challenging courses; (4) using technology to link parents to the classroom; (5) overcoming language barriers; and (6) encouraging communities to join family-school partnerships. (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 462 163

PS 030095

Ps

WHEN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES TEAM UP TO HELP CHILDREN LEARN, EVERYONE WINS!

Research shows that when families are actively involved in their children's education, children

- earn better grades and test scores;
- behave better and have more positive attitudes;
- graduate from high school at higher rates; and
- are more likely to go on to higher education

Schools are often more positively recognized, and teacher morale and job satisfaction also go up when parents are more involved!

"Better education is everybody's business!"

—Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education

Parent Organizations and Schools:

TEAM UP FOR KIDS!

This brochure is in the public domain.
Feel free to photocopy or reprint it.

Partnership for Family Involvement in Education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROMISE

Families and schools across America increasingly are accepting mutual responsibility for children's learning. When families are involved in children's learning, at school and at home, schools work better and students learn more. Schools and families are working with employers and community organizations to develop local partnerships that support a safe school environment where students learn to challenging standards. By working together, exchanging information, sharing decision making, and collaborating for children's learning, everyone can contribute to the education process.

Coming together as families, local school board governance, administration, teachers and school staff, we form this partnership and affirm the importance of family involvement in children's learning. We pledge to:

- **Share responsibility** at school and at home to give students a better education and a good start in life.

- **Help schools** to welcome families; to reach out to families before problems arise; to offer challenging courses; to create safe and drug-free learning environments; to organize tutoring and other opportunities that improve student learning; and to support the inclusion of families in the school decision-making process.

- **Help families** to monitor student attendance, homework completion and television watching; to take the time to talk with and listen to their children; to become acquainted with teachers, administrators and school staff; to read with younger children and share a good book with a teen; to volunteer in school when possible; and to participate in the school decision-making process.

- **Promote effective, two-way communication** between families and schools by schools reducing educational jargon and breaking down cultural and language barriers and by families staying in touch with the school.

- **Provide opportunities for families** to learn how to help their children succeed in school and opportunities for school staff to work with families.

- **Support family-school efforts to improve student learning** by reviewing progress regularly and strengthening cooperative actions.

We would like to become a member of the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education. We commit to family-

friendly practices and will work with others to form partnerships that support children's learning. (Please type or print the following information.)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Principal: _____ Signature: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Send to: Partnership for Family Involvement in Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8173 or fax to 202-205-9133 to receive your **Family-School Partnership Promise Certificate.**

GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- *America Goes Back to School* encourages everyone to go back to a school each fall to share their talents and experiences. A free kit is available to help you organize an event and start a long-term partnership between your local school and community organizations and businesses.

- *Think College Early* encourages students to take the tougher courses they need to be prepared to go to college, starting in middle school, and to inform parents of the necessary sequence of courses their child needs to take, such as algebra in the eighth grade and chemistry by eleventh or twelfth grade, as well as the financial planning needed to help pay for college.

- *America Reads Challenge: Read*Write*Now!* encourages children to read and write 30 minutes a day and to work with a learning partner. Age-appropriate activities and materials are available to help children work on their reading skills with parents, teenagers, and other caring adults.

- *Priority on After-School Extended Learning.* Partner members have placed new emphasis on the importance of providing before- and after-school activities that extend learning for children in a safe, drug-free environment.

To receive free information about any of these initiatives or to ask for materials, call the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-USA-LEARN.

HOW PARENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS CAN SUPPORT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Open the lines of communication and make families feel welcome as equal partners. Written materials to parents should be concise, easy to read, and free of educational jargon that parents may not understand. Schools often seem unwelcoming to family members, and parents often feel that educators talk down to them. Parents and educators need to help bridge this critical gap.

Give teachers the tools to reach out to families. Staff development can help teachers understand the benefits of family involvement and give them strategies for improving two-way communication between home and school.

Set high expectations for children by helping them enroll in challenging courses. Expect and encourage children to take tough academic courses. Help them take algebra by the end of the eighth grade. Encourage parental participation in school improvement efforts and after-school programs to give students extra academic help and enrichment activities in a safe environment.

Use technology to link parents to the classroom. New technologies such as voice mail systems, homework hotlines, and the Internet can all help bring parents and schools closer together. Many teachers still don't even have the old "technology" of a telephone in their classrooms. Finding resources for these technology tools can be a collaborative effort.

Overcome language barriers. Schools and parent organizations need to make special accommodations to reach parents whose first language is not English. Translate materials, make translators available for verbal communication in the parents' first language, and offer bilingual voice-mail systems for families.

Encourage communities to join family-school partnerships. Parents and community members can come together to help combat safety problems in the neighborhood around the school. Schools can partner with community groups, businesses, or religious organizations to offer after-school activities. Partnerships can lead to many effective programs that benefit the students and their families.

PLEASE JOIN US

Your school or parent organization is invited to join the **Partnership for Family Involvement in Education**, a growing national coalition of thousands of families, schools, communities, religious organizations and employers who recognize their interdependent roles in supporting family and community involvement in children's learning and improving our schools. You can sign and return the **Family/School Partnership Promise** on the inside of this brochure. For more complete information,

Call the U. S. Department of Education
at 1-800-USA-LEARN
or
Write to the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-9133
http://www.ed.gov/PFIE

PARTNERSHIP
for Family
Involvement
in Education

BEST COPY AVAILABLE